

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 INR-07 DODE-00 OES-06 NASA-01

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R 011439Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8882

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN BF

SUBJ: GCOB REQUEST FOR HIGH ALTITUDE THERMAL INFRA-RED  
PHOTOGRAPHY

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM  
MR. ORIS RUSSELL, PERMSEC, MINEXTAFF:

QUOTE DEAR MR. TAYLOR,

I REFER TO A LETTER DATED 30 JULY, 1976 FROM MR. H.R. WASON,  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF LANDS AND SURVEYS DEPARTMENT TO COMMANDER  
W. HUDSON MCGEE, NAVAL LIAISON OFFICER REGARDING THE THERMAL  
INFRA-RED PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE BAHAMAS WHICH STATED, INTER  
ALIA, THE FOLLOWING:-

"THIS DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN APPROACHED WITH A REQUEST FOR THERMAL  
INFRA-RED PHOTOGRAPHY OF CERTAIN AREAS OF THE BAHAMAS AND ALSO  
FOR HIGH ALTITUDE (60,000 FT.) PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE WHOLE  
BAHAMAS TO DEFINE THE LIMITS OF THE BANKS.

(BEGIN UNDERLINE) THERMAL INFRA-RED PHOTOGRAPHY - COASTAL  
EFFLUENTS (END UNDERLINE)

ALTHOUGH WE, HERE, HAVE ROUTINELY UNDERTAKEN INFRA-RED  
PHOTOGRAPHY IT HAS NEVER BEEN IN THE THERMAL END OF THE  
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INFRA-RED SPECTRUM SINCE WE WERE CONCERNED ONLY TO HAVE THE

SEA LEVEL CLEARLY DEFINED ON THE COASTS OF THE ISLANDS.  
OUR RECENT (1970 PLUS) PHOTO COVERAGE OF THE COASTS AT  
1/10,000 CONTACT SCALE IS COMPLETE FOR MOST ISLANDS EXCEPT  
PARTS OF NORTH AND WEST ANDROS.

THE GOVERNMENT AS YOU KNOW, IS TAKING A VERY SERIOUS VIEW OF  
ITS WATER RESOURCES WITH THE INTENTION OF BOTH CONSERVING AND  
INCREASING THEM. CONSEQUENTLY OUR HYDROLOGISTS FEEL THAT  
KNOWLEDGE OF THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE FRESH WATER EFFLUENTS  
AROUND THE COASTS OF THE ISLANDS WOULD GIVE THEM THE INFOR-  
MATION NEEDED TO TAP THIS DRAIN OFF. INFRA-RED PHOTO-  
GRAPHY IS THE BEST MEANS OF ESTABLISHING THE POSITION OF  
THESE EFFLUENTS.

SPECIFIC CASES IN THE CATEGORY ABOVE WHICH SHOULD BE  
EXAMINED HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY ONE HYDRO-GEOLOGIST VIZ:

1. LAKE KILLARNEY;
2. ANDROS (THE OUTFLOW BEFORE THE WATER BARGING BEGINS AND  
AFTER IT COMMENCES);
3. LONG ISLAND (THE CREEK IN THE MAIN LENS AT DEADMAN'S  
CAY).

THE WATER AUTHORITY HERE ALSO VIEWS WITH CONCERN THE ACTIVITIES  
OF DEVELOPERS IN GRAND BAHAMA AND IN NEW PROVIDENCE WHO MAY  
HAVE BREACHED FRESH WATER LENSES THUS ALLOWING SEA WATER TO  
ENTER THE FRESH WATER LENSES. FORTUNATELY THE TWO INSTANCES  
VIZ:

1. GRAND BAHAMA: GRAND LUCAYAN WATERWAY,
2. NEW PROVIDENCE: SEA BREEZE CANAL,

ARE NOT SERIOUS BECAUSE GRAND BAHAMA HAS NO WATER PROBLEM  
AT THE MOMENT AND THE SEA BREEZE CANAL IN NEW PROVIDENCE MAY  
BE BREACHING WHAT IS VERY DEFINITELY A NON-COMMERCIAL FRESH  
WATER LENS. NEVERTHELESS SOME FACTUAL INFORMATION ON THESE  
TWO WOULD HELP ESTABLISH SOME POLICY FOR THE FUTURE.

(BEGIN UNDERLINE) THERMAL INFRA-RED PHOTOGRAPHY - OCEAN UP-  
WELLING (END UNDERLINE)  
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OF INTEREST ALSO IS THE UP-WELLING OF FRESH WATER IN CERTAIN  
OCEAN AREA VIZ:

1. EAST OF ABACO, ELEUTHERA, CAT, LONG AND CROOKED IDLANDS;
2. NORTH EAST NEW PROVIDENCE CHANNEL, TOTO, EXUMA SOUND;
3. WEST PROVIDENCE CHANNEL, CROOKED ISLAND PASSAGE.

I HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT THESE AREAS OF OCEAN UP-WELLING HAVE IMPORTANT CONSEQUENCES FOR THE FAUNA OF THE AREA BECAUSE THE UP-WELLING IS RICH IN PLANKTON AND THEREFORE ATTRACTS A LARGE NUMBER OF FISH. INTERMEDIATE ALTITUDE INFRA-RED PHOTOGRAPHY CAN ESTABLISH THE RELATIONSHIP OF THESE UP-WELLINGS TO THE NEARBY LAND AREAS AND LATER LOW ALTITUDE (1/10,000 CONTACT SCALE) PHOTOGRAPHY CAN BE USED TO ANALYZE THE AREA IN GREATER DETAIL.

IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE PHENOMENAL SENSITIVITY OF THIS THERMAL INFRA-RED PHOTOGRAPHY IS BEST EXPLOITED BY NASA AND THE PARTICULAR QUALITY OF SERVICE THEY SUPPLY HAS NOT YET EXTENDED TO THE PRIVATE AIR SURVEY FIRMS EVEN THOUGH THE FINAL INTERPRETATION OF THE DATA MAY NOT BE DONE BY NASA BUT BY OUR OWN HYDROGEOLOGISTS."

2. IN ADDITION TO THE THERMAL INFRA-RED PHOTOGRAPHY MENTIONED ABOVE IT IS DESIRABLE THAT THE HYDRO-GEOLOGISTS HAVE AVAILABLE A SET OF RECENT HIGH ALTITUDE PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE BANKS OF THE BAHAMAS AT SCALE 1/M OR LARGER AS THIS WOULD GREATLY ASSIST THEM IN THEIR EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY FRESH WATER EFFLUENTS.

3. I AM INFORMED THAT COMMANDER MCGEE HAS CONFIRMED THAT THE TECHNICAL INFORMATION STATED ABOVE IS BASICALLY CORRECT AND HE HAS ADVISED THAT THE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM NASA BE FORMALLY SUBMITTED.

4. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL THEREFORE IF YOU WOULD BE SO GOOD AS TO CAUSE THIS MATTER TO BE REFERRED TO THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY SO AS TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER NASA CAN ASSIST US IN THE THERMAL INFRA-RED PHOTOGRAPHY AND HIGH ALTITUDE PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE BAHAMAS ALONG THE LINES INDICATED ABOVE.  
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YOURS SINCERELY,

O. S. RUSSELL,  
PERMANENT SECRETARY UNQUOTE

2. WITH REGARD TO PARA 3 OF MR. RUSSELL'S LETTER, COMMANDER MCGEE DID ADVISE MR. WASON THAT SUCH A REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE SHOULD GO THROUGH EMBASSY CHANNELS. COMMANDER MCGEE DID NOT, HOWEVER, CONFIRM TO MR. WASON THAT THE TECHNICAL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE REQUEST WAS BASICALLY CORRECT. MR. WASON HAS BEEN SO ADVISED AND REQUESTED TO CORRECT THIS MIS-STATEMENT TO MR. RUSSELL.

3. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE IN

FORMULATING A REPLY TO GCOB.

TAYLOR

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Film Number:** D760445-0545  
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**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Subject:** GCOB REQUEST FOR HIGH ALTITUDE THERMAL INFRA-RED PHOTOGRAPHY  
**TAGS:** TGEN, PBOR, BF, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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